

Emails re: Bench at Jenks

From: **Andrea Ristine** <aristine@acton-ma.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 8:55 AM
Subject: FW: question about memorial benches
To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

From: Ginny Harris [mailto:waldenwalker@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Natural Resources Department
Subject: question about memorial benches

Hi Tom, I have a friend whose wife just died. She was an avid birder and loved the Jenks conservation land. Her husband would like to donate a memorial bench in her name. Is this allowed? Please let me know.

Thank you so much.

Ginny Harris
978 263 8923

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From: **Jim Snyder-Grant** <jimsg@newview.org>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 10:01 AM
Subject: Re: FW: question about memorial benches
To: Andrea Ristine <aristine@acton-ma.gov>

Hi Andrea:

Let me ask around & get back to y'all.

When does Tom return?

-Jim

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(Jim S-G sent identical emails to both Josh and Bob)
From: **Jim Snyder-Grant** <jimsg@newview.org>

Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 10:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: question about memorial benches
To: Josh Haines <jhaines@ll.mit.edu>

I thought I'd start up a small conversation about this while we wait for Tom's return.

I vaguely remember the committee talked about a bench once at the downstream view as you walk towards the bridge from the entrance.

What do you think about a bench there or elsewhere?

-Jim

From: **Haines, Joshua - 0668 - MITLL** <jhaines@ll.mit.edu>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 10:20 AM
Subject: RE: FW: question about memorial benches
To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>
Cc: josh <jhaines@thetwelfth.com>

I think the best/only place for a bench is up in what I call "the orchard" – probably just on that chunk of ledge that sticks out at the east end of the small cross trail across the orchard area. The bench could face North or NorthWest perhaps. The family should certainly take a look, but I think that's a much more "enduring" area of Jenks... would be pretty easy to mow around and keep clear.

Up nearer the top of the Central Street access trail (where it's already cleared a bit down toward the downstream ponds) is "ok", but just not quite a 'peaceful' or 'powerful' as you're still hearing the cars go by and the sun doesn't set in that direction.

Josh

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Guba** <rfguba@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 12:41 PM
Subject: RE: FW: question about memorial benches
To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

Jim,

My suggestion is to get a group of birders together who frequent the Jenks Land and have them come up with a suitable site where one can sit and view the birds. One problem at the site you

mentioned is the seat may have to be down the slope to be outside the right of way AT&T has to reach the buried cable line for maintenance. Placing memorial seats about town means more maintenance. Will the donor pay for Perpetual Care as at the cemetery? :>))

Bob

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Guba** <rfguba@comcast.net>

Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2010 at 1:00 PM

Subject: RE: FW: question about memorial benches

To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>, jhaines@ll.mit.edu

Jim,

I agree with Josh on the area he recommended. Last week when I was at Jenks to evaluate the areas where the brush hog ran over tall grey dogwood leaving a mess I came across a woman and her dog. She was sitting in the field facing W or SW near the three new apple trees viewing the slowly setting sun. I could sense a feeling of peace and contemplation.

Bob

From: **Jim Snyder-Grant** <jimsg@newview.org>

Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2010 at 12:42 PM

Subject: Fwd: FW: question about memorial benches

To: Tom Tidman <ttidman@acton-ma.gov>

Hi Tom:

Bob & Josh are both thinking about the same area, if there is to be a bench.

If you would like to get back to the oriinal emailer to mention that we will talk about it at the Nov meeting, but that we have a place in mind, that would be great. Or I can, if you would rather.

-Jim

From: **Tom Tidman** <ttidman@acton-ma.gov>

Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2010 at 11:18 AM

Subject: benches

To: Catherine Fochtman <cfochtman@acton-ma.gov>, Cathy Hatfield
<hatfield.family.3@verizon.net>

Cc: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>, Bettina Abe <abe125@verizon.net>

Cathy's - As I mentioned, we have a person interested in donating a memorial bench to the arboretum. They asked about donating a granite bench, based on our recent conversations, I will steer them towards a wooden bench similar to the ones we most recently installed. I need an accurate price for such a bench, could one of you help me with that, please?

Jim - I spoke with the person that would like to have a bench placed at the Jenks Property in memory of a friend. They asked if a small plaque could be attached to the bench, I said that we typically (at least at the arboretum) don't allow plaques. What are your thoughts on that?

-T

From: **Jim Snyder-Grant** <jimsg@newview.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2010 at 2:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: benches

Hello to a few of you that have been with the committee longer than I have.

There's an offer of a bench for Jenks in memory of a recently passed loved one. Tom is recalling that in the Arb they don't have plaques for such things with names on them, as a matter of policy. What's your memory of actual or de-facto policy for the rest of our conservation lands? And do you recommend such a policy?

-Jim

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From: **Bob Guba** <rfguba@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2010 at 5:21 PM
Subject: RE: Benches
To: Acton Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

My recollection is that the subject of benches with memorial plaques has never been before the LSC. The only bench with a memorial plaque that I know of is at the Pencil Factory site on Nashoba Brook. To my knowledge this bench was installed without permission. It just appeared one day. Maybe Laurie can add some light to this since he lives the closest to the site.

Bob

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From: **Philip Keyes** <philipkeyes@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2010 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Re: Benches

To: Bob Guba <rfguba@comcast.net>, Acton Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

I agree with Bob's assessment -- it hasn't come up. We did express some dismay that a local developer involved with the David Rd. development installed a bench in memory of his daughter at the pencil Factory but no action was taken.

pk

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From: **Laurence Ullmann** <lullmann@comcast.net>

Date: Sat, Oct 30, 2010 at 11:32 AM

Subject: Re: benches

To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

Jim,

I don't know anything about the origins of the bench at the pencil factory, but I believe Tom does.

My opinion is that we should allow proposals for benches, but that they should only be approved for special places. The bench at the pencil factory is an ideal location on a dead-end spur trail where one can enjoy the view of the outflow from the dam. Having a small identifying plaque is appropriate. Other precedents include the benches at Will's Hole along the wood road as well as in front of the descriptive panels.

Laurie

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From: **Jim Snyder-Grant** <jimsg@newview.org>

Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2010 at 6:18 PM

Subject: Re: Benches

To: Philip Keyes <philipkeyes@comcast.net>

Cc: Bob Guba <rfguba@comcast.net>, Acton Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

OK, we are now firmly headed towards a policy recommendation discussion - so let's delay until the November meeting.

I'm happy to get any emails or phone calls about the issue, directly to me not cc'ing others, and I'll bring up the points made when we discuss this at a meeting.

-Jim